MARVEL

BEYOND!™

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KUNS8

DEAR TRACY, ONCE AGAIN, I'M WRITING A LETTER THAT YOU MAY NEVER SEE.

IT'S MY WAY OF TRYING TO STAY CLOSE, EVEN THOUGH I'M STILL STRANDED LIGHT-YEARS FROM HOME.

LIGHT-YEARS FROM YOU.

CHUK

DESPITE MY EFFORTS, THE DEPRAVED COSMIC "EXPERIMENT" CONTINUES.

AND THIS LAST ROUND WAS PARTICULARLY UGLY.

USUALLY, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO HELP AT LEAST A **FEW** MEMBERS OF THE TEST GROUPS SURVIVE...

...SOMETIMES I'VE EVEN HELPED PEOPLE **ESCAPE** FROM THIS GODFORSAKEN PLACE...

BUT THE TESTS ARE GETTING HARDER, THE TEMPTATIONS GREATER.

THIS TIME, **EVERYBODY** TOOK THE BAIT AND STARTED FIGHTING RIGHT AWAY.

BEFORE I COULD DO ANYTHING, THEY'D ALL KILLED EACH OTHER.

I WISH I KNEW HOW THESE RACES HONOR THEIR DEAD, SO I COULD DO THIS PROPERLY.

TUMP TUMP TUMP

I WISH I'D BEEN ABLE TO SAVE THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I WISH...

TRACY, YOU KNOW ME. YOU KNOW I'M THE LAST GUY TO EVER GIVE UP HOPE.

BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN TAKE THIS.

AND THE WORST PART OF IT ALL IS, READY OR NOT...

...IT'S ABOUT TO BEGIN AGAIN.

"As flies to wanton boys,
are we to the gods,
They kill us for their sport."
–William Shakespeare

THE GREAT BEYOND

LIFE IS GOOD.

FIRST OFF, I NARROWLY MANAGED TO AVOID FLUNKING OUT OF COLLEGE LAST SEMESTER. GO FIGURE.

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, I'VE ALSO PATCHED UP THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN ME AND **LAUREN**, MY VERY BEST FRIEND.

WHAT?

I WAS LOOKING AT THAT CUTE LITTLE WRINKLE YOU GET ON YOUR CHEEK WHEN YOU'RE CONCENTRATING.

OKAY, MAYBE A **LITTLE** MORE THAN "PATCHED UP".

I WAS THINKING OF KISSING IT TO MAKE IT BETTER.

MAYBE YOU **SHOULD.** I'M TOO YOUNG FOR A FACE-LIFT.

AND THESE DAYS, **DEFINITELY** MORE THAN JUST "FRIEND."

YOU TOTALLY MISSED MY CHEEK THERE, HERO.

I COULD TRY AGAIN...

SOUNDS LIKE A PROJECT. COME ON, MY DORM'S CLOSER THAN YOURS.

WHOA!

I ALWAYS HEAR PEOPLE COMPLAINING ABOUT SUMMER IN NEW YORK. I THINK THEY'RE **NUTS.**

MY ROOMMATE'S GONE BACK TO JERSEY FOR THE WEEKEND.

TOO HOT? TOO CROWDED? TOO **WHINY.** THIS IS THE BEST PLACE IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD.

THAT'S LUCKY. CAUSE ***MY*** ROOMMATE IS CURLED UP WITH *PEOPLE MAGAZINE'S* ANNUAL "*40 HOTTEST SUPER HEROES*" ISSUE.

ANYWAY, DEFINITELY BETTER THAN **WISCONSIN.** EVEN **DISCOUNTING** MY ENTIRELY EXCELLENT GIRLFRIEND.

SKREEE

CHOOM

WHAT WAS *THAT?*

MY TONGUE, WHAT'D YOU *THINK* IT WAS?

I'M ***SERIOUS!*** SOMETHING'S HAPPENING OUTSIDE.

SMEK

I SEE IT. SUPER-VILLAIN RAMPAGE 101.

THIS IS THE PART WHERE I USED TO MAKE UP SOME STUPID LIE, EXPLAINING WHY I HAVE TO LEAVE.

*BUT THAT WAS BEFORE I HAD MY **EPIPHANY:** TRUST THE WOMAN I LOVE WITH MY SECRET.*

MANY ADVANTAGES TO THIS ARRANGEMENT: NO LIES BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONE.

WAIT, GREGG. YOUR GOGGLES ARE CROOKED.

SOMEONE TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVEN'T ACCIDENTALLY PUT YOUR SHORTS ON OVER YOUR TIGHTS.

*YOU WOULDN'T **BELIEVE** HOW OFTEN **THAT** HAPPENS, EVEN TO VETERANS.*

BACK IN 15-- 30 IF HE BROUGHT FRIENDS.

BUT THE **BIGGEST** ADVANTAGE? **NOTHING** BEATS POST-SAVING-THE-WORLD SEX.

YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO TRUST ME ON THAT.

OH! *YOU* WAS GONNA ARREST *ME*? WHO'S THE PUNK NOW, HUH?

WHO'S THE PUNK *NOW*?!

RHETORICAL QUESTION, OR DO YOU STILL OWE ME A GOOD ENTRANCE LINE FROM THE *LAST* TIME I BUSTED YOU?

FOOOSH

GRAVITY!

BZZZT! WRONG ANSWER. I'M GRAVITY, YOU'RE THE PUNK, AND THIS--?

--THIS IS YOUR RIDE!

CRASH

HE'S ALL YOURS, OFFICERS. BRUSHFIRE'S ALMOST INVULNERABLE, BUT THAT OUGHT TO SLOW EVEN HIM D--

SSSSSSSSS

SSSSSSSSS

DUDE, I JUST HIT YOU WITH A CAR. THERE'S A TRUCK, RIGHT OVER THERE.

I AM SO MAD AT YOU RIGHT NOW...

YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD. MAYBE YOU SHOULD HIT THE INFIRMARY WHEN YOU GET BACK TO JAIL.

YEAH, I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING...

THANKS FOR THE SAVE. WHEN WE SAW YOU, WE WERE SURE YOU WERE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THAT BIG THING IN THE PARK.

WHAT BIG THING IN THE PARK??

OH, THAT BIG THING IN THE PARK.

*WEIRD. IT'S LIKE SOMETHING'S **DRAWING** ME TOWARD IT.*

GOTTA BE A WAY TO STOP MYSELF BEFORE I CRASH INTO THAT FORCE FIELD...

OKAY, SOMEBODY OBVIOUSLY WANTS ME IN HERE.

SINCE I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE, I MAY AS WELL RELAX AND ENJOY THE--

--RIDE?

FWASSH

RESPIRATION AND PULSE, NORMAL.

I THINK HE'S COMING OUT OF IT.

CAN YOU *HEAR* ME?

HUNNN?

HE LOOKS OKAY TO ME. STOP BABYING HIM.

HOLY CRAP. IS THAT YOUR *TONGUE?*

YEAH, SMART GUY. THESE ARE MY *TEETH,* TOO.

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

YOU WERE JUST TRANSPORTED INTO DEEP SPACE VIA A MATTER-STREAMING CONDUIT.

DON'T LET HIM FOOL YOU. ALL OF US WERE DISORIENTED BY THE TRANSPORT BEAM. VENOM PUKED.

MEET THE REST OF THE VICTIMS. EVERYBODY? THE NEWBIE'S NAME IS GRAVITY. GRAVITY? THIS IS--

I'M SORRY, DID YOU SAY "DEEP SPACE?"

WHERE ARE WE?

DEEP SPACE. GET A CLUE.

HEY. SORRY I'M NOT QUICK ENOUGH ADJUSTING TO THE FACT THAT I'M ON THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE.

I'M WITH YOU, MAN. I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN OUT OF NEW YORK. DON'T EVEN HAVE A PASSPORT.

DO NOT LIGHT THOSE! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S MAINTAINING OUR ATMOSPHERE.

EVENTUALLY, I LEARNED ALL THEIR NAMES.

THE WASP.

=UHFF!=

KRAVEN THE HUNTER.

ANYWAY, IT'S A BAD HABIT.

GREAT, "CIGARETTE NAZIS IN SPACE." MAYBE YOU SHOULD MAKE A MOVIE.

YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME, SMOKEY MCCHIMNEY?

NAH. IT'S YOUR WORLD, HOLLYWOOD.

THE HOOD.

DON'T MIND HIM, HE THINKS HE'S SUPPOSED TO TALK LIKE HE'S ON A SITCOM.

ENOUGH! WE NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON FIGURING OUT WHO'S DONE THIS TO US, AND WHY.

MEDUSA.

DOCTOR PYM.

MY WIFE... AH, *EX*-WIFE... HAS SOME INSIGHT INTO ALL THAT. JANET?

SOMETHING SIMILAR HAPPENED TO ME SEVERAL YEARS AGO. SPIDER-MAN WAS THERE, TOO.

YOU TELL IT, I HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON CAPTAIN OVERBITE HERE.

SPIDER-MAN I KNEW ALREADY. HECK, I WAS PRACTICALLY A MEMBER OF HIS FAN CLUB.

VENOM I'D SEEN ON CNN. THERE WAS A LOT OF BAD BLOOD BETWEEN THOSE TWO.

SO WE'RE *ALL* DOING THE INSULTING NICKNAME THING NOW?

MISTER, I PRACTICALLY *INVENTED* THE INSULTING NICKNAME THING.

BUT I DON'T THINK ANYONE UNDERSTOOD HOW MUCH.

EXCUSE ME, *THE WASP* WAS TALKING.

FIREBIRD.

LAST TIME, A SUPER-POWERFUL ALIEN ENTITY KNOWN AS THE BEYONDER KIDNAPPED ALMOST THREE DOZEN OF US.

HE DIVIDED US INTO *"GOOD"* AND *"EVIL"* TEAMS, THEN FORCED US TO FIGHT, *"TO SEE WHICH IS STRONGER."* BUT THIS TIME I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT--

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST *ASK* HIM.

I AM FROM BEYOND!

SLAY YOUR ENEMIES AND ALL YOU DESIRE SHALL BE YOURS!

NOTHING YOU DREAM OF IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO ACCOMPLISH!!

PITHY.

YOU STILL GOT THAT LISP?

UM. ANYBODY KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT?

UNFORTUNATELY, YES. THE BEYONDER IS THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF A ***COSMIC CUBE.***

SORRY, SWEETNESS. SOME OF US DON'T WATCH THE HISTORY CHANNEL.

IT'S... IT ***WAS,*** A DEVICE THAT TURNS YOUR THOUGHTS INTO REALITY. ANYTHING YOU CAN CONCEIVE.

SO IT GRANTS WISHES? LIKE ALADDIN'S LAMP?

MORE LIKE THE MONKEY'S PAW.

ALADDIN'S LAMP DIDN'T ASK YOU TO KILL SOMEONE IN RETURN FOR YOUR WISHES.

NO. AND WE'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT GOING TO DO WHAT IT ASKED US.

WHY'S IT OBVIOUS? I DON'T SEE ANYBODY ELSE OFFERING US A WAY HOME.

AND I GOTTA TELL YOU, I CAN THINK OF A *LOT* OF WISHES I'D LIKE TO COME TRUE.

=HHHHHH=

HE'S GONE INVISIBLE--?!

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND HIM WITH MY SPIDER-SENSE...

DON'T BOTHER. EVEN *WITHOUT* MY ANIMAL SENSES--

--HE *REEKS.*

=WHOOF=

HOW STUPID CAN YOU BE?

I DUNNO. WHAT'S THE RECORD?

OPEN YOUR EYES. THERE'S NOBODY IN THIS ROOM YOU'RE ***CAPABLE*** OF KILLING, EVEN ***WITH*** THESE TOYS, EXCEPT MAYBE THE FAT SCIENTIST.

EXCUSE ME?

I'M SORRY. YOU'RE RIGHT. I JUST LOST MY %#$! FOR A SECOND.

I AM ***NOT*** FAT.

WHATEVER.

I'M WONDERING IF WE STILL COULDN'T CUT SOME KIND OF DEAL.

YOU WANT TO CUT A DEAL WITH THE BEYONDER?

WHY NOT?

BECAUSE HE'S ***POWER.*** YOU DON'T NEGOTIATE WITH POWER. YOU JUST TAKE THE DEAL OR LEAVE IT.

YOU'RE SERIOUSLY SUGGESTING WE ALL FIGHT UNTIL THERE'S ONLY ONE SURVIVOR?

NO. ANYWAY, THAT'S NOT WHAT I HEARD HIM SAY.

NEAR AS I CAN FIGURE, OUT OF THIS WHOLE GROUP, I ONLY GOT ***ONE*** ENEMY.

AND THAT'S YOU!

LIKE I DIDN'T SEE *THAT* COMING.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYBODY MOVE LIKE SPIDER-MAN.

TAKE HIM DOWN!

BUT VENOM COMES CLOSE.

THANKS FOR THE OFFER, BUT THE DAY I CAN'T TAKE *THIS* BOZO DOWN BY MY LONESOME...

THWIP

HUNGH!

...WELL, TO BE HONEST, *THAT* DAY I'LL PROBABLY ASK FOR HELP. I'M NOT PROUD.

HOLD *STILL!*

WHAT KIND OF SENSE DOES THAT MAKE? TRY AND THINK YOUR TAUNTS THROUGH FIRST.

LOOK, GARGAN, YOU COULDN'T BEAT ME WHEN YOU WERE THE SCORPION, AND YOU CAN'T BEAT ME NOW.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST *GIVE UP?* WE'VE DONE THIS DANCE A DOZEN TIMES AND WE *BOTH* KNOW HOW IT ALWAYS--

--ENDS

SHUNK

NO!

PLEASE, NO...

AND THEN EVERYTHING CHANGED...

I DID IT!

SHLUK

I THOUGHT I'D LEARNED MY LESSON ONCE BEFORE.

...HURTS...

SHHHH. DON'T SPEAK.

THIS ISN'T A GAME.

...GOTTA TALK... GOT TO TELL YOU ONE LAST THING, MARY JANE...

...I LOVE Y...

OR EVEN IF IT IS, THE STAKES ARE LIFE AND DEATH.

HE'S *GONE.*

YOU HEAR THAT, BEYONDER? I SLEW MY ENEMY! I WANT MY REWARD!

GIVE ME WHAT I DESERVE!

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT, VENOM.

I *PROMISE* YOU'LL GET *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU DESERVE.

VENOM!

I'VE SEEN SOME FREAKY-ASS #@*% THE LAST YEAR OR SO, BUT SHE TAKES THE PRIZE.

HER HAIR IS ALIVE.

SECOND WIND

WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR SPIDER-MAN.

BEYONDER! YOU PROMISED ME A REWARD! WHERE ARE YOU?!

DO NOT IGNORE ME, VENOM.

GOOD ADVICE THERE.

I SAID, PAY ATTENTION!

SUFF

WHAT...?!

THAT WOMAN IS HARDCORE.

WHWP

YOU TRYING TO KILL SOMEBODY?

LET ME SHOW YOU HOW IT'S D--

KRAK

AND HOTTER THAN A PISTOL.

=UNNH=

KLAK KLAK

DON'T.

WHLMPP

EASY, HOOD. PUT YOUR GUNS AWAY.

DUNNO, WASP. GUY NEEDS KILLING. BULLETS ARE CHEAP AND PLENTIFUL.

THAT'S NOT OUR CALL. WE'RE TAKING HIM BACK HOME WITH US AND TURNING HIM OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE *KIDDING* ME!

STAND ASIDE.

CALM DOWN, MEDUSA.

VENGEANCE ISN'T OUR WAY.

AS THE ROYAL CONSORT OF THE SOVEREIGN NATION OF ATTILAN, I CLAIM CIVIL AUTHORITY OVER THIS MURDERER-

NOT GOING TO FLY. I'M USING MY AVENGERS' SECURITY CLEARANCE AND PUTTING HIM IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY--

--CIVIL *AUTHORITY* OVER THIS MURDERER. AND UNDER THE TRUE LAW AS DULY ESTABLISHED IN THE SCROLLS OF AGON...

...I SENTENCE HIM TO FIFTY LASHES.

KRAK

AHHHHHH!

KRAK UNNNH!

WHOA! WAIT!

KRAK

AIIEE!

THE GOOD NEWS? ONLY FORTY-SEVEN TO GO.

KRAK

SHOULD WE LET HER DO THIS?

IT FEELS WRONG. BUT I DON'T KNOW IF WE COULD STOP HER IF WE *WANTED* TO.

SPIDER-MAN WAS MY FRIEND. VENOM'S GOT THIS COMING AND PLENTY MORE.

NO. WE CAN'T LET THIS CONTINUE.

KRAK

HE'S EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO SONIC ATTACKS.

SO?

SO, AT THE MOMENT OF IMPACT, HER HAIR IS TRAVELING FASTER THAN MACH 2. BAD ENOUGH.

KRAK

...BUT THE LOOP TRAVELING *WITHIN* HER HAIR IS DELIVERING A SONIC BOOM DIRECTLY INTO HIS BODY.

KRAK

AHHHHH!

YOU HAVE TO *STOP*. YOU'RE *KILLING* HIM.

THE LAW IS CLEAR ON THIS POINT. IF HE'S TOO WEAK TO SURVIVE HIS PUNISHMENT, SO BE--

AHHHH!

SON OF A...!

BLAMBLAMBLAMBLAMBLAM

GET HIM!

ZAPP ZAPP

SHRIEK

KRUNNK

HE'S TUNNELING STRAIGHT AHEAD.

AND DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN HIS PATH. WE NEED TO FIND HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS A CRITICAL SYSTEM.

UH, DR. PYM? I THINK HE ALREADY *HAS.*

WHAT IS IT?

THIS SHIP. HOWEVER IT WORKS, I'VE NEVER FELT IT MOVING.

IT'S AN INERTIALESS DRIVE.

MAYBE IT *WAS.* ALL OF A SUDDEN, I CAN FEEL US ACCELERATING.

THE ENGINES ARE DAMAGED.

EVERY-BODY GET *OUT* HERE!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

ASSUME CRASH POSITIONS!

I CAN CONTROL GRAVITY. MAYBE I CAN SLOW US DOW--

NNNNGGH!

WHAT'S WRONG?

FOR ONE THING, WE'RE SPEEDING UP!

YOUR POWERS ARE INTERFERING WITH THE PROPULSION SYSTEM. YOU'RE *FEEDING* THE ENGINES.

I...CAN'T...*STOP*...IT...

FAP

UNH!

OWWW!

WHY DID I *DO* THAT?

WE'RE SLOWING DOWN!

OH, YEAH. RIGHT.

WE'RE STILL GOING TO HIT HARD.

WE COULD BURN OUR WAY OUTSIDE BEFORE WE HIT THE GROUND. I COULD FLY US DOWN.

DOESN'T ***WORK*** THAT WAY, WE'LL STILL BE GOING THE SAME SPEED AS THE SHIP. IT'D TEAR US APART.

THEN... OUR BEST CHANCE... IS TO RIDE IT OUT...

SKREEEEE

THOOOOM

WELL, *THAT'S* DIFFERENT.

IT'S *GROSS.*

MEDUSA'S HAIR PROTECTED US FROM THE BRUNT OF THE IMPACT. OTHERWISE, WE WOULD NEVER HAVE SURVIVED.

WHATEVER. I'M JUST SAYING I'M OVER MY CRUSH ON HER, IS ALL.

HANK? SHE'S *HURT.*

WHERE'D *THAT* COME FROM?

MY POCKET. I KEEP A LOT OF EQUIPMENT SHRUNKEN DOWN UNTIL I NEED IT.

I SUBMIT MYSELF TO THE SAME PROCESS BUT THERE ARE CERTAIN BIOLOGICAL DIFFICULTIES--

SAY NO MORE.

SHRINKAGE IS NOTHING TO JOKE ABOUT.

HEART AND RESPIRATION ARE FINE BUT THERE'S MAJOR DAMAGE TO HER LEG.

SHE'S LOST A GOOD BIT OF BLOOD, TOO. I'M GIVING HER SOME PAINKILLERS.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I'VE GOT A TERRIBLE BACKACHE. GOT ANY OXYCONTIN IN YOUR MAGIC BAG?

GO AWAY.

SHRAKLE SHHAK SHRAKLE

THAT DOESN'T LOOK VERY STABLE. WE SHOULD GET FURTHER AWAY.

YEAH, IN A MINUTE.

SHRAKLE SHHAK SHRAKLE SHHAK

GRAVITY! GET AWAY FROM THERE!

SHHAK SHRAKLE SHRAKLE KRAKK

THE REST OF YOU, CLEAR OUT!

SHE'S RIGHT. ALL THAT ENERGY'S GOING TO *DISCHARGE.*

KA-THOOM

AW, MAN. THE KID...

ARE YOU CRAZY? YOU COULD HAVE DIED IN THERE.

HE *DID* DIE IN THERE. HE DESERVES OUR RESPECT.

WE SHOULD FIND SOMETHING TO WRAP THE BODY IN...

HOLD UP.

WE'RE BEING *WATCHED.*

COME OUT WHERE WE CAN SEE YOU.

YOU HEARD THE MAN. YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE US COME IN AFTER YOU.

I GET IT, YOU'RE ALL VERY TOUGH. SO DON'T HURT ME, OKAY?

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

MY NAME'S MICHAEL. I GOT HERE THE SAME WAY YOU DID.

WELL, ALMOST. *MY* GROUP MANAGED TO GET HERE WITH-OUT CRASHING THE SHIP.

CAN I PUT MY HANDS DOWN WITHOUT GETTING SHOT?

FOR NOW.

IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, I'D LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT IT.

IT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD. THE BEYONDER...

UHNN...

ARE THEY OKAY?

SHE'S INJURED, BUT SHE'LL BE FINE. SPIDER-MAN DIDN'T MAKE IT.

I'M SORRY. HE HELPED ME OUT OF A JAM ONCE. HE WAS A GOOD MAN.

LOOK, IF YOU GUYS WANT TO LIVE THROUGH THIS, YOU NEED TO GET MOVING.

MOVING *WHERE??*

THERE'S AN ABANDONED CITY ABOUT 60 MILES FROM HERE. THERE'S SHELTER THERE, AND FOOD.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A WAY HOME, NOT TEMPORARY HOUSING.

SOMETIMES IT'S THE WAY OUT, TOO. NOT ALWAYS.

THEN THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD LET ME MAKE THAT CALL. YOU'RE *INJURED.*

BUT NOT ADDLED.

LOOK, I DON'T CARE WHO YOU'RE MARRIED TO! JANET'S BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE AVENGERS, SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING.

STOP TRYING TO PROTECT HER, HENRY. SHE CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF.

MYSTERY-MAN'S RIGHT.
THAT JUNGLE'S FULL OF PREDATORS.
THEY'RE WORKING UP THEIR NERVE.
OKAY, THEN. WE'LL TRY IT YOUR WAY.
AT LEAST WE DON'T HAVE TO WALK.
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?
TRANSPORTATION.
TONY STARK LET YOU HAVE A *QUINJET*?
ACTUALLY, HE LOANED IT TO ME. I FORGOT I HAD IT.
UH-HUH.
DON'T FLY, IT ATTRACTS TROUBLE.
TROUBLE'S MY MIDDLE NAME.
OKAY, I DON'T EVEN *HAVE* A MIDDLE NAME, BUT IF I DID, WOULDN'T "TROUBLE" BE COOL?

LAST CHANCE.

YOU'RE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE.

..."ALOYSHA TROUBLE KRAVINOFF." ALMOST MAKES UP FOR "ALOYSHA."

WE'LL COME BACK FOR YOU.

DEETDEET DEETDEET

PROXIMITY ALERT! WHERE...?

IT'S DRAGON MAN! IT'S--

FOOSH

WHOOM

TWO CRASHES IN ONE DAY? MAYBE WE *SHOULD* HAVE JUST WALKED.

GET TO *GROUND*, HE'S TURNING FOR ANOTHER ATTACK.

ARRRRRH!

AHH!

THOK

SKREEEEEE

UNF!

WHUDD

UH!

REGROUP! TRY AND LEAD HIM AWAY FROM OUR INJURED.

GRAVITY, RIGHT FLANK. MEDUSA, LEFT.

NNNN... NNNNN...

NHHHAAAAGH!

OH... UNH. OHHH!

GET AWAY FROM HERE, MAN! THAT THING'LL KILL YOU.

DON'T... THINK SO... NNNNAGH!

DID I SAY I'VE SEEN SOME FREAKY #$*% THIS YEAR?

EXHIBIT FREAKIN' A.

Transformation and self-test complete. All systems 100%. **DEATHLOK** online.

GIMME A SITREP.

Approaching Hostile identified as **"Dragon Man,"** artificial life-form with class 100 strength.

Select from Options: **FIGHT** or **FLEE.**

TAKE A WILD GUESS.

Strategic analysis complete. Under current restrictions, odds of victory over Hostile designate: "Dragon Man" are statistically insignificant.

SO MUCH FOR THE *GOOD* NEWS...

Analysis continues: Odds of this unit's survival less than 4%.

OH, @#$% ME.

Unable to comply.

THAT'S OKAY. I'M PRETTY SURE HE'LL DO IT FOR US.

RAAAAAAGGH!

DEAD MAN WALKING

GRAVITY, SEE IF YOU CAN KEEP HIM OUT OF THE AIR.

MEDUSA, DISTRACT HIM. I'M GOING IN FOR AN EYE SHOT.

IS THAT GOING TO WORK?

Negative. 93% probability of multiple casualties in attacking party.

NOBODY ELSE IS DYING TODAY. UNLOCK SAFETY PROTOCOLS.

Running...

HEY! YOU KNOW HOW TO TEACH A THIRTY-FOOT-TALL DRAGON TO HEEL?

RRAGHH!

THAT'S RIGHT. FIRST YOU'VE GOT TO GET HIS ATTENTION.

ROUND 2

RRAGHH!

WHOAAA!

LOOK OUT BEL--

UNNF!

OH!

THEY'RE BOTH DOWN, MICHAEL! AND I CAN'T GET ANYWHERE NEAR HIM.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO DO SOMETHING?

I *AM* DOING SOMETHING.

COMPUTER?

Safety protocols disabled. Class 100 strength activated.

WHAT DOES THAT DO TO THE ODDS?

Reassessing...

Odds of this unit's survival exceed 99%. Odds of survival of friendly combatants 87%. Odds of victory over Dragon Man 72%.

RRAGHH!

REAPPLY "NO KILLING PARAMETER."

"No Killing Parameter" severely limits tactical options and decreases odds for success by--

ALREADY BEEN OVER THIS, COMPUTER. WE DON'T KILL.

THOOM

"No Killing Parameter" in effect.

WHICH ISN'T TO SAY WE CAN'T PUNCH HIS LIGHTS OUT.

KRAKK

RRAGH!

GOT HIM!

ZAAPT

FOOSH

AHHH!

WARNING: System organics severely damaged by excess heat. Disconnecting neural receptors.

Nanosurgical repair units dispatched to damaged tissues. Estimated repair time: Four minutes, nineteen seconds. Suggest strategic retreat.

TOO LONG. WE GOT TO STOP THAT THING BEF--

FOOOSH

GET *AWAY* FROM HIM!

RUHH?

I SAID, GET AWAY!

THOOM

UNNH...

GOT YOU!

GOOD.

'CAUSE I GOT HIM.

AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

ERR?

KATHOOM

YOU OKAY?

MEDIUM-WELL.

THANKS... FIREBIRD, IS IT?

BONITA.

C'MON, BONITA. LET'S CHECK ON THE OTHERS.

THAT'S BETTER. AT LEAST EVERYBODY CAN STAY WARM UNTIL MORNING.

IF YOU MEAN SUNUP, THAT'S ANOTHER 62 HOURS FROM NOW.

FWOOSH

WE'RE JUST TAKING A BREAK.

GET A LITTLE REST AND FOOD, THEN WE'RE BACK ON THE MOVE.

I'VE GOT M.R.E.'S FOR EVERYBODY AND BOTTLED WATER.

SWELL. YOU GOT ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE AIRPLANES IN THERE?

SORRY. WE'LL HAVE TO DO IT ON FOOT.

THIS STUFF IS *FOUL.*

IT'S FRUIT-FLAVORED VITAMIN WATER.

MAYBE YOU GOT A BOTTLE OF PELLEGRINO IN THERE SOME-WHERE?

YOU ARE THE TOUGHEST LADY IN THE JUNGLE, KRAVEN, YOU KNOW THAT?

I LIVE FOR YOUR APPROVAL.

GLAD YOU GUYS ARE HAVING SO MUCH *FUN.*

SPIDER-MAN'S BODY IS STILL MISSING AND YOU'RE ARGUING OVER WHAT FLAVOR WATER TO DRINK?

HE'S *DEAD.* THE FOREST ANIMALS PROBABLY DRAGGED HIM OFF FOR LUNCH.

SHUT UP!

OR YOU'LL *CRY?*

THE KID'S RIGHT. SHOW SOME RESPECT.

WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HIM, GRAVITY. BUT FOR NOW, WE HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON SURVIVAL.

I KNOW. IT'S JUST...

...THE GOOD GUYS SHOULD WIN, YOU KNOW?

OH, *YOU'RE* THE VOICE OF WISDOM ALL OF A SUDDEN? YOU DON'T LOOK ANY OLDER THAN ME.

I'M OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE LIVING IN A DREAM-WORLD.

THE GOOD GUYS *NEVER* WIN. THE SMARTEST, TOUGHEST, MEANEST S.O.B. IN THE GAME WINS. EVERY. SINGLE. TIME.

AND THAT'S *YOU,* HUH, KID?

WHAT ARE YOU, *TWELVE?*

CYNICISM ISN'T MATURITY. CALLOUSNESS ISN'T STRENGTH. PRETENDING YOU DON'T CARE SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY ISN'T "WINNING."

WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR LIFE ***MATTERS.*** I SUSPECT, DEEP DOWN, YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT.

BUT IF YOU DON'T, TRY PAYING ATTENTION TO THE *"TWELVE-YEAR-OLD"* OVER THERE.

YOU ***TELL*** HIM, DR. PHIL!

EVERYTHING I SAID TO HIM GOES DOUBLE FOR YOU.

IF YOU GUYS WANT TO SURVIVE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER, DEPEND ON EACH OTHER, ***TRUST*** EACH OTHER.

I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE. THE ONLY THING THAT'LL KILL US FASTER THAN THIS PLANET IS EACH OTHER.

I'D ***LIKE*** TO TRUST YOU, MICHAEL, BUT I DON'T ***KNOW*** YOU.

I CONCUR. YOU SEEM TO KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.

LIKE I SAID. I'VE SEEN IT *BEFORE...*

"SHORT VERSION. I WAS BETRAYED BY A FRIEND. KILLED, THEN *RESURRECTED* AS A CYBORG SUPER-SOLDIER.

"BUT I OVERCAME MY PROGRAMMING AND *ESCAPED.*

"UNFORTUNATELY, BACK THEN I COULDN'T CHANGE MY APPEARANCE. I WAS A MONSTER.

"SO I KEPT TO THE SHADOWS, SEARCHING FOR A CURE FOR MY CONDITION, WHILE HELPING WHOEVER I COULD ALONG THE WAY.

"UNTIL THE DAY I STUMBLED ACROSS ONE OF THE BEYONDER'S TRANSPORTERS.

"I FOUND MYSELF TRAPPED HERE WITH OTHER SUPER-POWERED BEINGS, CAPTAIN MARVEL, WONDER MAN, DARKHAWK, DRACULA, TERROR, COLDBLOOD AND SLEEPWALKER.

"AND THE BEYONDER MADE US AN OFFER..."

WE MANAGED NOT TO KILL EACH OTHER, BARELY. I MADE A DEAL WITH THE BEYONDER AND HE RETURNED EVERYONE TO EARTH.

BUT *YOU'RE* STILL HERE.

YEAH. THAT WAS THE DEAL.

THAT DOESN'T TRACK, MICHAEL. WONDER MAN WOULD HAVE TOLD THE AVENGERS.

SO WOULD CAPTAIN MARVEL, WHICHEVER ONE YOU SUPPOSEDLY MET.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU. MAYBE HE ERASES THEIR MEMORIES BEFORE HE SENDS THEM BACK?

MICHAEL, YOU'RE A BORN RACONTEUR, BUT I HAVE TO GO RECYCLE SOME OF PYM'S FRUIT JUICE.

YOU'RE SAYING THE BEYONDER'S DOING THIS OVER AND OVER?

I'VE BEEN HERE FOR ***YEARS***, WATCHED THIS HAPPEN DOZENS OF TIMES, WITH HUNDREDS OF SUPERHUMANS.

AND ODDS ARE AGAINST YOU BEING IN THE FIRST GROUP.

ODDS, AND THE CORPSES I'VE FOUND.

COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU ARE...

=SNIFF= HEH.

I WANT US BACK ON THE MOVE AGAIN WITHIN THE HOUR.

JAN, CAN I SEE YOU FOR A MOMENT? PRIVATELY?

WE HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED SINCE LONDON.

NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT. WE TRIED AND IT STILL DOESN'T WORK. TOO MUCH HISTORY.

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT. WHAT I DID TO YOU WAS UNFORGIVABLE--

HENRY...

--BUT IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. THAT'S NOT WHO I AM ANYMORE.

I'VE SPENT YEARS WORKING TO BECOME A MAN WHO'S WORTHY OF YOU.

YOU'LL SEE.

COME ON OUT, PARKER. I CAN SMELL YOU.

WHO *COULDN'T?* I'M DECOMPOSING.

YOU KNOW ANYTHING GOOD FOR GETTING OUT BLOOD-STAINS?

DON'T *PLAY* WITH ME. I NEED AN EXPLANATION FOR THIS.

WHO'S *PLAYING?* THIS IS *WAY* OUTSIDE MY AREA OF EXPERTISE. WHAT DO *YOU* THINK IS HAPPENING?

I DUNNO. I FELL ASLEEP BACK AT THE CAMPFIRE AND I'M DREAMING. I'M HALLUCINATING FROM OUTER SPACE GAS. I'M STILL ON EARTH, A SCHIZOPHRENIC OFF HIS MEDS--

YOU'RE AN AUTISTIC KID PLAYING WITH A SNOW GLOBE?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THAT, AL. I'M ALIVE. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, BUT IMPOSSIBLE'S SORT OF OUR BUSINESS.

SO, I'M NOT CRAZY.

LET'S NOT PUSH IT. YOU STILL WORK IN THE MOVIE BUSINESS.

POINT.

ALSO, THERE'S THE WHOLE BEYONDER THING. YOU KNOW, INSCRUTABLE ALIEN INTELLIGENCE WITH GODLIKE POWERS?

YOU MIND IF I SIT DOWN? THIS HOLE THROUGH MY CHEST HURTS LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE.

NO, UH--GO AHEAD...

THAT'S BETTER.

WHERE WERE WE? OH. THE BEYONDER. I'VE GOT A MESSAGE FROM HIM.

"I AM FROM BEYOND! SLAY YOUR ENEMIES AND ALL YOU DESIRE SHALL BE YOURS! NOTHING YOU DREAM OF IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO ACCOMPLISH!!"

ONLY YOU HAVE TO IMAGINE IT IN A REALLY DEEP, ECHOEY VOICE.

"ACCOMPLISH, COMPLISH, COMPLISH..."

THIS ISN'T FUNNY.

NO, IT ISN'T. LOOK, THERE'S TWO WAYS THIS GAME CAN END--EVERYBODY DIES, OR EVERYBODY DIES, EXCEPT *YOU.*

THE BEYONDER'S AS GOOD AS HIS WORD. IF YOU KILL ALL THE OTHERS, YOU GET A RIDE HOME AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT.

AND THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK I SHOULD DO?

I'M ALREADY DEAD, YOU'RE STILL ALIVE. I WANT YOU TO STAY THAT WAY, I'M YOUR FRIEND.

NO, YOU'RE NOT. I DON'T KNOW ***WHAT*** YOU ARE...

...BUT PETER PARKER WOULD ***NEVER*** ASK ME TO KILL. NOT FOR ANYTHING.

I AM HAVING THE WORST DAY EVER.

GOTTA SAY, COULD BE WORSE.

NOW, YOU WERE TELLING KRAVEN HOW TO WIN THIS GAME. HOW ABOUT YOU TELL ME EVERYTHING ELSE YOU KNOW?

TRY PULLING THE TRIGGER. IT *MIGHT* NOT BLOW YOUR FINGERS OFF.

THWIPP

MY FREAKIN' HAND!

THUK

BLAMM

AHHHHH!

AHH!

YOU READY TO TALK? I GOT MORE BULLETS THAN YOU GOT KNEES.

THIS IS RIDICULOUS. WHY ARE WE WAITING AROUND FOR THE HOOD?

THE SAME REASON WE WAITED FOR YOU. WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.

WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE AND USE YOUR TRACKING POWERS TO GO FIND HIM?

I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK INTO THE WOODS.

CAN'T SAY I BLAME YOU...

...THERE'S SOME SCARY @#$% IN THERE.

SUNUVA... *OW!* LEGGO! THAT'S MY ONLY GOOD LUNG!

YOU'VE ALL MET THE GHOST, RIGHT?

SPIDER-MAN...?

UNF!

SEE, I DON'T *THINK* SO. I'M NO DOCTOR, BUT...

WELL, I AM. AND THERE'S NO WAY ANY *HUMAN'S* ALIVE WITH *THAT* CHEST WOUND.

ALSO, I *KNEECAPPED* HIM. GETS AROUND PRETTY GOOD FOR A DEAD MAN WITH ONE PIN.

WHAT DO YOU SAY, "*SPIDEY*"? YOU WANT TO TALK, OR SHOULD I START PULLING STUFF OUT AT RANDOM?

...

FINE. WE'LL START WITH YOUR APPENDIX. YOU DON'T NEED THAT ANYWAY.

AHHHHH!

shhukk

STOP IT!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING*?!

UH...UH... UH...

NOT REALLY SURE. COULD BE HIS APPENDIX, COULD BE A KIDNEY.

WE'RE NOT DOING IT LIKE THIS.

LET HIM WORK. I THINK HE'S GOING TO TALK.

I'M NOT GOING TO REPEAT MYSELF. THIS STOPS NOW.

YOU NEED TO BACK *WAY* OFF, TIN-MAN.

NO NEED TO... FIGHT OVER... ME. THIS AIN'T... WORTH IT.

YOU... WANT TO KNOW... WHO I AM?

TAKE A GOOD LOOK.

THE SPACE PHANTOM?!

PHANTASM

"SPACE PHANTOM"? KIND OF A STUPID NAME.

YOU TELL HIM, DEATHLOK.

I AM NOT TO BE MOCKED, HUMAN. MY POWER IS LEGENDARY.

NOT SO LONG AGO, I ALMOST DEFEATED THE AVENGERS.

BLAMM

AH!

WILL YOU STOP *SHOOTING* EVERYBODY?!

SORRY, HE SPOOKED ME WITH THAT "*DEFEATED THE AVENGERS*" THING.

DUDE, HE SAID "*ALMOST.*"

OHHH...

EASY. I'LL TEND TO YOUR WOUNDS--

WAIT!

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE. HE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU KNOW.

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PRISONER, SHARE IT WITH US.

WHY NOT GET IT FROM THE SOURCE?

I'D RATHER HEAR IT FROM THE WASP THAN FROM THIS... *DECEIVER.*

HE'S A MEMBER OF AN ALIEN RACE. HE CAN IMITATE JUST ABOUT ANYBODY, AND WHEN HE DOES, THE ORIGINAL IS SHUNTED INTO LIMBO.

LIMBO. HEAVEN'S WAITING ROOM?

MORE LIKELY AN EXTRADIMENSIONAL SPACE WITH DIFFERENT RULES OF PHYSICS THAN OUR OWN. REED RICHARDS WROTE A PAPER ON IT YEARS AGO. HE THEORIZED THAT IT'S AN EXTRUSION OF--

HENRY.

BUT THAT'S A TANGENT, ISN'T IT?

YOU USED TO WORK FOR IMMORTUS. IS HE PART OF THIS EXPERIMENT?

IMMORTUS ABANDONED ME TO THE BEYONDER TO SAVE HIS OWN SKIN.

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN. WE GIVE THE BEYONDER HIS BOY BACK IN RETURN FOR A RIDE HOME.

THAT'S NOT ENOUGH.

HOW'S THAT?

THE BEYONDER'S BEEN SCREWING WITH PEOPLE FOR YEARS. MAYBE HUNDREDS OF THEM. HE KILLED SPIDER-MAN. A RIDE HOME ISN'T ENOUGH.

HE HAS TO PAY FOR WHAT HE'S DONE.

THAT ISN'T HOW THE SPACE PHANTOM'S POWER WORKS. SPIDER-MAN'S NOT DEAD. HE PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW HE WAS IN LIMBO.

!

WHAT ABOUT ALL OF THE OTHER LIVES LOST BECAUSE OF HIS ACTIONS?

WHAT ABOUT US ***GETTING HOME?*** ISN'T THAT THE POINT?

DOZENS HAVE DIED HERE. HE'S BEEN ***EXPERIMENTING*** ON PEOPLE!

MESSING WITH OUR HEADS. MAKING THIS GUY PRETEND TO BE SPIDER-MAN TO SET VENOM OFF, LETTING SPIDER-MAN GET KILLED.

YOU GUYS DO WHAT YOU WANT, BUT IF YOU GET IN BETWEEN ME AND A WAY HOME? WE GOT A PROBLEM.

NOT FOR LONG, JUNIOR.

ENOUGH. THE DECISION IS MADE. WE TRADE YOU TO YOUR MASTER.

AND WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO GO?

THEN THERE'S GOING TO BE MORE OF THAT MUTILATION AND TORTURE THAT MICHAEL IS SUCH A @$%# OVER.

VERY WELL--

--TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!

DAMN!

COMPUTER? I NEED SOME INTEL. WHOSE BODY HAS HE JACKED?

No matching record in our database.

SWELL.

BLAMM

ANYBODY KNOW THE TEDDY BEAR IN THE TINFOIL HAT?

DON'T EVERYBODY SPEAK AT ONCE.

FWOOOOSH

I'VE TAKEN THE FORM OF XEMNU THE TITAN. THIS BODY HAS FOUGHT THE HULK TO A STANDSTILL.

PERHAPS IF I KILL A FEW OF YOU MYSELF, YOU'LL GET BACK INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME.

UNNNHH!

AAARRGH!!

DROP HIM, FURBALL.

ZAPT

AHH!

PEST! YOU'LL DIE FIRST.

WHAT...?!

CEASE YOUR STRUGGLES, OR I'LL TEAR YOU LIMB FROM LIMB.

I BELIEVE YOU *WOULD--*

OH!

--WERE I FOOLISH ENOUGH TO ALLOW IT.

AHHHHH!

I GOT HER!

THWOK

UNF!

KRAKK

AHHH!

THOOM

DON'T LET HIM RECOVER. HIT HIM HARD!

CHOOM CHOOM

THOOM!

UHN!

RRRUMMMMBLE

C'MON, C'MON...

GOT HER!

YOU OKAY?

SOMEWHAT PERTURBED. COULD YOU TAKE ME BACK TO THE SPACE PHANTOM? I WISH TO ***SHARE*** MY DISPLEASURE.

WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD.

FOOSH

AHHH!

SHLUK

GOOD, NOW TAKE THE HEAT *OUT* OF THE ROCK!

I'LL TRY...

IT'S WORKING!

THAT'S A SHAME. I HAD PLANS FOR YOU.

DON'T... CHANGE... YOUR PLANS...

...ON MY ACCOUNT!

REBOUND

TANG

TANG

WHIRR

SSSSS

SSSSS

SSSS

AHHH!

ERRRRRAGGGGH!

WE ARE SO $#%@ED.

FLIP

EH?

TRANQUILIZER DART. NANOGAUGE HYPODERMIC, TO PIERCE YOUR HIDE ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL.

YOU'VE JUST BEEN INJECTED WITH A VERY POWERFUL SEDATIVE.

UHHH...

I'D PUT DOWN THE ROCK. I SORT OF HAD TO *GUESS* ON THE DOSAGE...

UHNN...

THOOM

YOU SURE TOOK YOUR TIME.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I HAD TO *BUILD* THIS THING.

YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE LAB IN YOUR POCKET?

THREE OR FOUR OF THEM. FOR DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES.

YOU DON'T ***KNOW*** HOW MANY LABS YOU HAVE IN YOUR POCKET?

ARE YOU KIDDING? SOMETIMES I HAVE TROUBLE FINDING STUFF IN MY DESK DRAWER.

UH, GUYS...?

DAMMIT! HIT HIM HARD BEFORE HE--

WOOSSSSSH

BOOOMMM

--DOES THAT.

I DON'T SUPPOSE ANYONE WANTS TO RUN AFTER HIM?

WE DON'T HAVE TO. I WASN'T DONE PONTIFICATING EARLIER. THE INJECTION I GAVE HIM ALSO INCLUDED MULTIDIMENSIONAL NANO-TRANSMITTERS.

BUT HE SWAPPED BODIES.

I WAS COUNTING ON THAT. THE TRANSMITTERS ARE DESIGNED TO BE SECRETED THROUGH SWEAT GLANDS.

SO WHEN HE WENT BACK TO LIMBO TO SWAP BODIES WITH NORTHSTAR...

HE LEFT A TRAIL.

ONE WE CAN FOLLOW, OR IS THIS ALL ACADEMIC?

MY SHRINKING TECHNOLOGY IS BASED ON SHUNTING MASS FROM OUR DIMENSION INTO ANOTHER, BORDERING ONE.

LIMBO BORDERS ON ***EVERY*** KNOWN DIMENSION. WITH THE COORDINATES I'VE GOT NOW, FOLLOWING HIM IS ANYTHING BUT ACADEMIC--

--IT'S AS SIMPLE AS WALKING THROUGH THIS DOOR.

OKAY. WE GO IN PREPARED. FLYERS TAKE POINT. SECOND WAVE, I WANT MICHAEL AND HIS BIG HONKIN' GUN READY TO LAY DOWN SUPPRESSING FIRE.

MEDUSA, I WANT YOU A STEP BEHIND DEATHLOK. USE HIS BODY AS A SHIELD BUT YOU'RE OUR PRIMARY SHORT-RANGE OFFENSE.

HENRY--

ALREADY ON IT, JANET. I'LL COVER MICHAEL.

ZRRRRR

KRAVEN AND HOOD, YOU'VE GOT OUR SIX.

EVERYBODY OKAY WITH THE PLAN?

COMPUTER? EVALUATE BATTLE STRATEGY.

Strategy sound. Suggest we comply.

I'M IN.

AS AM I.

WE ALL ARE. LET'S QUIT WASTING TIME.

THEN ON MY MARK--

--LET'S GO!

THERE'S NOTHING IN HERE.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? IT'S LIMBO.

THERE *IS* SOMETHING HERE.

THE REAL NORTHSTAR. THAT MEANS SPACE PHANTOM IS STILL IMITATING HIM.

THEN WE WAIT. NEXT TIME HE SWITCHES BODIES, HE POPS UP HERE, AND WE GRAB HIM.

MMMMMMMM

MMMMMMM

WHERE ARE YOU, BEYONDER? THE GAME'S OVER--

--AND VENOM IS THE WINNER!

WELL, THIS JUST *SUCKS.*

EVERYBODY LIMBO

I CONCUR WITH THE SENTIMENT, IF NOT HIS VOCABULARY.

THERE'S NO WAY TO FIX THE DIMENSIONAL INTERFACE?

NOTHING THAT COMES TO MIND, NO.

GIVE HIM TIME. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE'S *TRYING?*

I'M NOT TRYING ANYMORE. THE GATEWAY WAS DELIBERATELY SABOTAGED FROM OUTSIDE.

KLUNK

I DON'T HAVE THE EQUIPMENT HERE TO REPAIR IT.

WHAT ARE WE STRESSING ABOUT?

SOON AS SPACE PHANTOM POPS IN HERE FOR A NEW BODY, WE GRAB HIM AND MAKE HIM TAKE US OUT.

ASSUMING HE WASN'T THE ONE WHO TRAPPED US HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

UNLIKELY. THIS IS HIS BASE, IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE FOR HIM TO HAVE DONE THIS.

EVEN SO, I SHOULD HAVE FORESEEN THE POSSIBILITY, AND LEFT SOME OF US BEHIND TO PROTECT THE DEVICE.

THERE'S PLENTY OF BLAME TO GO AROUND HERE, JAN.

DON'T PATRONIZE ME, HENRY. I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR *MY* MISTAKES.

WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

AS IF YOU DON'T KNOW.

HOW MANY TIMES AM I SUPPOSED TO APOLOGIZE?

I DIDN'T ASK YOU FOR AN APOLOGY.

HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS PUT THIS ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT?

WE'VE GOT MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS TO SOLVE.

HE'S RIGHT. COME SIT WITH ME, CALM DOWN A LITTLE.

BEYONDER! WHERE ARE YOU? I'VE WON THE GAME!

THEY'RE ALL GONE! I WANT MY *REWARD!*

I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME!

BEYONDER?! *PLEASE!*

I WANT TO GO HOME...

I'M SERIOUS, MAN. LEAVE ME ALONE.

JUST *CONSIDER* IT. I'VE GOT THE CONNECTIONS TO GET THIS PROPERTY IN FRONT OF THE RIGHT PEOPLE. AND IT'S A SLAM-DUNK PITCH.

YOUR LIFE STORY IS BOX OFFICE GOLD! IT'S GOT ACTION, ROMANCE, PATHOS! *BIG FREAKIN' EXPLOSIONS!*

I...CAN'T BELIEVE... YOU WANT MY...MOVIE RIGHTS.

ARE YOU *YANKING* ME? YOU'RE A CYBORG *AND* A ZOMBIE. *HUGE* BOX OFFICE. *IMMENSE.*

HELL, IF YOU'D EVER BEEN A *PIRATE* I'D GET MY OWN STUDIO TO RUN.

KRAVEN?

CALL ME "AL."

GO *AWAY,* AL.

TRY AND HELP SOME PEOPLE...

DON'T YOU EVER GET SICK OF ME WHINING TO YOU?

NO. YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND AND AN OUTSTANDING MAN.

I WISH YOU'D TELL *HER.*

SHE ALREADY KNOWS.

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO LET THIS GO, HANK. YOU'RE BOTH GOOD PEOPLE...

...WE'RE JUST NOT GOOD FOR EACH OTHER.

IT'S OKAY.

I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO SEE ME CRY. I'M TIRED OF LOOKING WEAK.

YOU AREN'T WEAK. YOU'RE THE STRONGEST MAN I KNOW.

STRONG ENOUGH TO DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO TO MOVE ON WITH YOUR LIFE.

IF I EVEN KNEW WHAT THAT WAS...

WHAT YOU GOT THERE, FLYBOY?

NOTHING. NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

TUMP

C'MON, MAN. I ALREADY SAW SOME PICTURES. WHO IS IT, YOUR GIRL?

IT *IS* YOUR GIRL--

--SHE'S *WAY* HOTTER THAN *YOU* DESERVE.

NEW YORK STATE

CAN'T ARGUE WITH YOU THERE. I KINDA HIT GIRLFRIEND LOTTO.

IT'S NOT JUST HER LOOKS, THOUGH. SHE MAKES ME WANT TO BE *BETTER,* YOU KNOW?

I'M THINKING MAYBE AFTER WE GET OUT OF SCHOOL, I'LL ASK HER TO MARRY ME.

I MEAN, I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING TO *HER* YET, BUT I THINK SHE WILL.

WELL, SINCE WE'RE ALREADY PLAYING SHOW-AND-TELL, HER NAME'S *SARA.* MINE'S *PARKER,* BY THE WAY.

WE'RE EXPECTING A BABY ANY DAY NOW.

I KNOW YOU THINK I'M JUST A JERK AND ALL. GUESS I PRETTY MUCH *AM.* BUT I'M TRYING TO DO BETTER.

AND LIKE YOU WERE SAYING, SHE'S THE REASON WHY.

AND WHATEVER I HAVE TO DO TO GET BACK HOME TO THEM, I'LL DO IT.

MOST OF YOU GUYS ARE PRETTY OKAY. BUT YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS: I'VE GOT A FAMILY. THEY'RE DEPENDING ON ME.

NO HARD FEELINGS, BUT I'LL DO IT.

YOU'VE BEEN MARRIED TO BLACK BOLT FOR A LONG TIME.

ALMOST MY ENTIRE ADULT LIFE.

WHAT'S YOUR SECRET?

COMMUNICATION.

HE'S *MUTE.*

YES. AND I CAN'T OVERSTRESS WHAT AN AID THAT IS IN SETTLING OUR OCCASIONAL DISAGREEMENTS.

HANK AND I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM TALKING. SOMETIMES I THINK WE BOTH TALK TOO MUCH.

YOU'RE REFERRING TO YOUR SNAPPING AT HIM EARLIER?

I DIDN'T MEAN TO, IT CERTAINLY WASN'T THE RIGHT TIME FOR IT.

MY EX-HUSBAND IS A GOOD MAN AND I LOVE HIM.

"BUT"?

BUT WHENEVER I LOOK AT HIM, ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS WHAT HE DID TO ME.

HE ONLY DID IT ONCE. HE WASN'T HIMSELF WHEN IT HAPPENED. HE'S APOLOGIZED A THOUSAND TIMES.

IF YOU CAN'T FORGIVE HIM, THEN NO RELATIONSHIP IS POSSIBLE.

WHY SHOULD I FORGIVE HIM? HE *HIT* ME!

I DIDN'T SAY YOU SHOULD.

I SUSPECT IN A SIMILAR SITUATION THAT I WOULDN'T EITHER.

IT'S NOT FAIR TO HIM, THOUGH. WE'VE BEEN DIVORCED FOR YEARS, AND HE'S STILL FOLLOWING ME AROUND, TRYING TO PROVE HIS WORTH.

I'M RUINING HIS LIFE. I SHOULD LET HIM GO SO WE CAN BOTH MOVE ON.

THAT MAY NOT BE AS LARGE A CONCERN AS YOU SUPPOSE...

WHY'D YOU DO THAT?

I'LL BET YOU CAN FIGURE IT OUT, IF YOU TRY.

REALLY SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT I NEED A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME.

I THINK I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

ME TOO.

AH, DR. PYM?

I'M SURE.

WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER.

I'VE BEEN THINKING. AFTER WE GET OUT OF LIMBO, WE STILL HAVE TO GET OFF THIS PLANET. AND I MAY KNOW HOW.

UM...

I THINK IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN *ALL* WIN THE GAME...

BEYONDER? BEYONDER!!

SOUNDING A LITTLE HOARSE THERE--

--WANT A COUGH DROP?

RRRRAGGH!

KRAK

I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU. YOU REALLY GAVE THAT BOULDER A BEATING.

HOLD STILL!

DON'T

THINK

SO.

CALM DOWN, I'M NOT *PLAYING* THE GAME.

THINK OF ME AS SORT OF A *REFEREE.*

YOU WORK FOR THE BEYONDER? GOOD. TELL HIM I BEAT ALL THE OTHERS. I WANT MY PRIZE.

THEY MUST STILL BE ALIVE, OR YOU'D ALREADY BE TALKING TO HIM.

I'M TELLING YOU, I *WON!*

PLEASE. DON'T TRY AND CON A CON MAN.

IF YOU WON'T CALL HIM, MAYBE HE'LL SHOW UP TO INVESTIGATE YOUR *DEATH.*

FINE. IF YOU DON'T WANT MY HELP, I'M GUTTA

RRAAGH!

WELL, THAT WAS A BUST.

I'D HOPED I COULD USE VENOM TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER PLAYERS.

YOU DIDN'T NEED HIM--

--WE'RE RIGHT HERE.

AHHHH!

HERE'S THE DEAL.

YOU'RE GOING TO TRANSPORT US OUT OF HERE. THEN YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO SCREW WITH US AGAIN.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

THIS IS NOT A NEGOTIATION.

HOOD?

YOU KNOW THE DRILL, PHANTOM. I REMOVE YOUR ORGANS ONE AT A TIME UNTIL YOU GIVE ME WHAT I WANT.

GONNA HAVE TO PUT MY BACK INTO IT.

TOTALLY MY FAULT.

I DON'T TAKE CARE OF MY THINGS THE WAY I SHOULD.

THIS ISN'T PARTICULARLY SHARP.

ALL RIGHT! YOU WIN!

I'LL DO IT.

SOMEONE'S DOUBTIN', LORD. KUMBAYA...!

I'M CONFIDENT THAT SPACE PHANTOM IS FAR TOO INTELLIGENT TO ATTEMPT ANY DECEPTION.

THAT MAKES ONE OF US.

WE MADE IT!

MOST OF US DID. THE SONUVA$#%&@ *DITCHED* US.

THAT SURPRISE YOU? THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE YOU TURN IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD TO THE CYNICS' GUILD.

WELL, THERE'S CYNICISM...

...AND THERE'S COMMON SENSE.

HEY, WHERE'D SHE GO?

I'M IN YOUR EAR CANAL, SPACE PHANTOM.

DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN BRINGING BACK THE ***REAL*** DEATHLOK AND I'LL BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT.

FWASH

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

FIRST THINGS FIRST, "I GOT THE YO-YO."

"I GOT THE STRING."

AND HERE I THOUGHT PASSWORDS WERE OVERKILL. SPACE PHANTOM?

YES. HE LEFT YOU IN LIMBO AND TRIED TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.

BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?

IT'S WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE. BUT I WAS BLUFFING WHEN I SAID I'D KILL HIM.

GLAD TO HEAR IT.

WELL, I WASN'T ENTIRELY ***SURE*** IT WASN'T YOU...

WE GOT COMPANY.

VENOM! I THOUGHT YOU'D DIED IN THE CRASH. I'D BE HAPPY TO REMEDY THAT FOR YOU.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOU, RED. DON'T YOU SEE?

IT'S THE *BEYONDER!*

NO. IT'S THE *WATCHER.*

HE'S FROM AN INCREDIBLY POWERFUL AND MYSTERIOUS ALIEN RACE.

THE COSMIC VOYEURS, RIGHT? I'VE READ ABOUT THEM.

BULLCRAP! THAT'S GOTTA BE THE BEYONDER. IT'S TIME TO PLAY THE GAME!

HE MAY BE RIGHT.

RRAGH!

SKREEEE

HANK! WHAT DID YOU *DO*?

WE HAD A *DEAL!* NO KILLING!

YEAH, WE DID.

GET *AWAY* FROM HER!

BUT I'M CUTTING A NEW ONE.

SKREEEE

SKREEEE

UNF!

=URK=

GET OFF OF HIM!

UNPH!

HANK! WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

WHAT'S IT *LOOK* LIKE? DOUBLE-CROSSING *EVERY*BODY!

I'M SORRY IT HAD TO BE THIS WAY, BONITA.

SKREEE

GAME OVER.

KOLINS 06

THERE IS A UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLE EQUALLY TRUE IN PSYCHOLOGY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS AND OTHER FIELDS YET TO BE DISCOVERED BY HUMANITY

IN SIMPLE TERMS, THE ACT OF OBSERVATION ALTERS THE EVENTS BEING OBSERVED

THIS PRINCIPLE SHOULD NOT, AS IT OFTEN IS, BE CONFUSED WITH INDETERMINACY OF THE SORT EXPRESSED BY YOUR HEISENBERG'S UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE

WE ARE NOT DISCUSSING THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF SIMULTANEOUSLY MEASURING PRECISE VALUES OF CONJUGATE PROPERTIES, SUCH AS THE POSITION AND MOMENTUM OF ELEMENTARY PARTICLES

RATHER, WE ARE ALLOWING FOR A MUCH MORE INTUITIVE NOTION

THE TOOLS OF OBSERVATION AND/OR THE BIASES OF THE OBSERVER WILL, IN AND OF THEMSELVES, CHANGE THE BEHAVIOR OF THE PROCESS BEING OBSERVED

I AM THE WATCHER.

FOR LONGER THAN THIS GALAXY'S EXISTENCE I AND OTHERS OF MY RACE HAVE BEEN WITNESS TO THE MYRIAD WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE.

OUR MANDATE AND MOST SACRED TRUST IS THAT WE OBSERVE EVENTS OF COSMIC SIGNIFICANCE BUT ALSO THAT WE NEVER INTERFERE.

WE SELDOM ADMIT IT BUT THE TRUTH IS INCONTROVERTIBLE. OBSERVATION WITHOUT INTERFERENCE IS IMPOSSIBLE.

SOMETIMES I ALLOW THIS DILEMMA TO WORK TO MY ADVANTAGE.

THE OBSERVER EFFECT

HENRY PYM!

HUH...? WHO...?

I AM FROM BEYOND!

YOU HAVE SLAIN YOUR ENEMIES. ALL YOU DESIRE SHALL BE YOURS.

I'VE BETRAYED MY FRIENDS AND NOW I GET A REWARD.

PORTRAY THE EVENTS AS YOU WILL. YOU HAVE WON THE CONTEST. MY PROMISE IS UNBREAKABLE. WHAT DREAM CAN I MAKE COME--

HOLD, WE ARE BEING *OBSERVED.*

WHY ARE YOU HERE, *UATU?* THIS IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS.

VERY WELL. SO LONG AS YOU CONTINUE TO HONOR YOUR VOW AND IN NO WAY INTERFERE, I WILL ALLOW YOU TO REMAIN AND OBSERVE.

DR. PYM, WHAT REWARDS DO YOU WISH FOR YOUR VICTORY?

YOU'RE FAR LESS AVARICIOUS THAN MOST WHO WIN THIS CONTEST.

YEAH? WAIT AND SEE.

I WANT TO BE RETURNED TO EARTH.

I ASSUMED AS MUCH. CONSIDER IT DONE.

I WANT TO KNOW WHO YOU *REALLY* ARE.

PARDON ?

"PARDON," HELL. YOU *CAN'T* BE THE BEYONDER. THE BEYONDER *NEVER* ACTED THE WAY YOU DO. ANYWAY, I'VE HEARD SEVERAL REPUTABLE REPORTS THAT THE BEYONDER IS *DEAD*.

WHO *ARE* YOU?

LET'S STAY WITH TRADITION. THREE WISHES.

I COULD ARGUE THAT THE BEYONDER'S POWER CANNOT BE CIRCUMSCRIBED BY HUMAN CONCEPTS OF "LIFE" AND "DEATH."

BUT THE TRUTH IS AS YOU SUSPECT. I AM NOT THE BEYONDER.

I AM...A *STRANGER.*

FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT IN DEEPEST SPACE I HAVE BEEN STUDYING YOUR PRIMITIVE BUT POTENTIALLY DEADLY RACE.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, I WATCHED AS THE TRUE BEYONDER PERFORMED AN ***EXPERIMENT,*** KIDNAPPING SEVERAL SUPER-POWERED BEINGS IN A MISGUIDED ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCEPTS OF GOOD AND EVIL.

THIS EXPERIMENT FAILED, CHIEFLY BECAUSE HE ASKED THE WRONG QUESTIONS.

SHORTLY AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE BEYONDER'S RESEARCHES, BATTLEWORLD WAS ***DESTROYED.***

BUT I SAW THAT IT WAS IDEAL FOR MY PURPOSES AND ***RESTORED*** IT.

THE REST YOU KNOW. MY STUDIES OF YOUR RACE AND ITS POTENTIAL CONTINUE.

YEAH, ABOUT THAT. I HAVE ONE WISH LEFT.

AS I HAVE PROMISED.

I WANT YOU TO *STOP* THIS EXPERIMENT AND NEVER DO IT AGAIN.

UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT I'M AFRAID I CANNOT COMPLY. ASK ME FOR *ANYTHING* ELSE.

I DON'T *WANT* ANYTHING ELSE.

NO, YOU DON'T. I WONDER *WHY?*

DO YOU NOT REALIZE I CAN EASILY RESTORE THE LIVES OF ANY OF YOUR FALLEN COMPATRIOTS THAT YOU CHOOSE?

OR IS THAT SOMEHOW *UNNECESSARY?*

YES. THEY STILL *LIVE.*

DAMN. HE'S ON TO US.

HELLO, DALI.

DEATHLOK. THIS TRICKERY *MUST* HAVE BEEN OF YOUR CONCEPTION.

WE ALL HAD A HAND IN, THANKS.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HE DIDN'T EVEN *TELL* US THE PLAN UNTIL AFTER PYM SHRUNK US.

WHEN YOU TRIED TO FIGHT HIM YOU ALMOST RUINED EVERYTHING.

VERISIMILITUDE?

NICE TO FINALLY KNOW WHO'S ACTUALLY BEEN TOYING WITH US FOR NO REASON.

MY REASONS ARE MY OWN BUT REST ASSURED, THEY EXIST.

"AS FLIES TO WANTON BOYS ARE WE TO THE GODS, THEY KILL US FOR THEIR SPORT."

"SPORT"? YOU THINK I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO *PLAY* WITH YOU? I BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE I *FEAR* YOU.

MY POWER, AND THE POWER OF THOSE OF MY ILK CAME WITH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS, SOMETIMES MILLIONS, OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT.

YOU...YOU'RE DOUSED WITH RADIOACTIVITY THAT SHOULD KILL YOU.

OR YOU'RE THE PRODUCT OF A GOOGOLPLEX-TO-ONE GENETIC CODING ERROR THAT SHOULD HAVE RESULTED IN STILLBIRTH...

BUT INSTEAD OF *DYING*, YOU *THRIVE*.

THE EARTH. ONE LITTLE PLANET. AN INSIGNIFICANT SPECK IN AN OCEAN OF SPACE.

AND YET, GALACTUS SHRINKS FROM YOUR POWER. THE KREE, SKRULL AND SHI'AR GIVE YOU A WIDE BERTH, WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

THE PHOENIX FORCE MANIFESTS THERE. THE SORCERER SUPREME CALLS IT HOME. I BARELY SCRATCH THE SURFACE.

THERE IS A SAYING AMONG BEINGS OF GREAT POWER, THE TRANSLATION IS DIFFICULT...

"WHEN THE APOCALYPSE COMES, ALL THAT WILL REMAIN ARE COCKROACHES AND HUMAN BEINGS."

MY HUSBAND ALMOST NEVER SPEAKS. YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, NEVER SEEM TO STOP.

IS THERE A POINT TO ALL THIS?

THERE WILL COME A DAY, MANY MILLENNIA FROM NOW, OR PERHAPS AS SOON AS NEXT WEEK, WHEN HUMANITY'S CANCEROUS GROWTH WILL TILT THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE UNIVERSE.

WHEN THAT DAY ARRIVES, I WILL BE PREPARED. UNDERSTANDING YOUR MOTIVATIONS, YOUR THOUGHT PROCESSES, YOUR CAPACITY FOR VALOR AND AVARICE.

YOU THINK THIS MONSTROUS EXPERIMENT HAS TAUGHT YOU *ANYTHING* ABOUT HUMANITY?

IF YOU REALLY WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT US, YOU COULD HAVE JUST *ASKED.*

IN ANY CASE, IT'S OVER. YOU *PROMISED.*

CONSIDERING THAT YOU CHEATED, I'M NOT SURE I'M BOUND BY MY PROMISES.

IN ANY EVENT, MY WORK HERE IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LIMITED BY ANY AGREEMENTS I MAY HAVE MADE WITH YOU.

THOOM

ZZRAK

FOOSH

BLAM BLAM

HAVE YOU NEVER HEARD OF "NO TAKE-BACKS"?

NO FOOLING AROUND, PRESS YOUR ATTACK!

AHHH!

FLEAS! YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST ME.

RARRGH!

I THINK WE DO. YOUR LITTLE SPEECH ABOUT HOW TOUGH WE ARE ASIDE, I THINK TODAY IS SPECIAL...

THE WATCHER ONLY SHOWS UP WHEN SOMETHING IMPORTANT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM HERE BEFORE.

I BET HE'S HERE TO WATCH YOU GET YOUR BUTT KICKED.

CHOOM

GOOD POINT. LAST TIME I SAW THE WATCHER WAS WHEN TYSON GOT KAYOED THE FIRST TIME.

REALLY?

GEBUS, KID. DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE TRASH TALK WHEN YOU HEAR IT?

IT'S POSSIBLE. THAT WAS A GREAT FIGHT.

FACE IT, STRANGER. SOMEHOW YOU'RE GOING TO *LOSE*, OTHERWISE THE WATCHER WOULD BE OFF WATCHING *AMERICAN IDOL*.

CRAP, IS THAT ON *TONIGHT*? I'VE GOT MONEY ON IT.

IS IT *TRUE*, WATCHER? AM I DESTINED TO GO DOWN IN DEFEAT TODAY?

OR ARE YOU MERELY HERE TO FORCE ME TO KEEP MY PROMISES TO THIS VERMIN?

I'VE POWER ENOUGH TO DEFEAT THEM AND YOU. YOU *KNOW* I SPEAK THE TRUTH!

DAMN IT, UATU! *SPEAK* TO ME!

YOU WILL INTERFERE IF I REFUSE TO KEEP MY PROMISE? IS THAT IT?

MUST I ONCE AGAIN BATTLE THE WATCHERS?

VERY WELL. IF YOU KEEP YOUR VOW, I'LL KEEP MINE. THE EXPERIMENT IS OVER.

OUR AGREEMENT STANDS.

NO MORE EXPERIMENT?

AS I SAID.

AND TRANSPORTATION HOME?

IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL WHO ARE FLEET ENOUGH TO REACH IT.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN.

YOUR TRANSPORT REMAINS WHERE YOU CRASHED IT, BUT IS NOW COMPLETELY REPAIRED.

I SUGGEST HASTE. THIS WORLD EXISTS AS A RESULT OF MY WILL. WITHOUT PURPOSE, IT WILL NOT LONG SURVIVE.

THAT ROTTEN S.O.B.! THE *PLANET'S* FALLING APART.

RRRRRUMMMMBLE

NO TIME TO TALK, WE'VE GOT TO MOVE!

I HEAR YOU, BUT THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL MAKE IT BACK BEFORE THIS WHOLE PLANET FALLS APART.

MAYBE WE CAN. I'VE NEVER TRIED THIS BEFORE, BUT I'M PROJECTING A GRAVITY FIELD PERPENDICULAR TO THIS PLANET'S.

IF WE GET IN THERE, WE SHOULD "*FALL*" TOWARDS THE SHIP AT ROUGHLY TERMINAL VELOCITY.

NOT QUITE. I HAVE TO PUT THE BRAKES ON AT THE OTHER END.

AREN'T YOU COMING?

NOPE. I'VE GOT SOME OTHER BUSINESS. MEET YOU THERE AS SOON AS I CAN.

IF I CAN.

GOOD THING I'M NOT AFRAID OF *FALLING...*

UNPH!

AH!

DID EVERYBODY MAKE IT?

WOLPH!

YEAH, BUT I DON'T SEE HOW. MY COMPUTER THINKS THE PLANET SHOULD HAVE ALREADY FALLEN APART BY NOW.

DON'T QUESTION GOOD FORTUNE, GET INSIDE.

IT'S NOT LUCK. THE *KID'S* DOING IT.

C'MON... C'MON...

...HOLD IT JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER...

I'VE JUST ABOUT FIGURED OUT HOW TO FLY THIS THING.

NOT UNTIL GRAVITY GETS BACK.

C'MON, MAN. HE SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR US. WE GOTTA GO.

HE SAVED ALL OUR ASSES. GIVE HIM A *CHANCE.*

LISTEN... TO THE MAN...

...WHEN HE'S RIGHT...HE'S RIGHT!

THAT'S *EVERYBODY,* PROFESSOR. *PUNCH* IT!

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. PYM. LOOKS LIKE EARTH, DEAD AHEAD.

UH, YEAH. ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE ***FADING AWAY*** LIKE THIS?

FWASH

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK. WONDER WHY IT BEAMED US BACK HERE?

IT'S JUST GOOD TO BE BACK HOME. AM I ***RIGHT***, GRAVITY?

GRAVITY?

HE DIDN'T MAKE IT.

HE'S GONE TO A BETTER PLACE.

MY CONDOLENCES, MR. AND MRS. WILLIS. YOUR SON WAS A REMARKABLE YOUNG MAN.

I'M TELLING YOU, LAUREN.

HE WAS A GREAT GUY AND HE LOVED YOU WITH ALL HIS HEART. YOU'RE ALL HE TALKED ABOUT.

CALL ME PARKER. ANY FRIEND OF GRAVITY'S IS A FRIEND OF MINE.

THAT MEANS A LOT, MR. ROBBINS.

THIS IS THE HIGHEST HONOR MY PEOPLE CAN BESTOW UPON AN OUTSIDER. YOUR SON EARNED IT AND MORE.

THANK YOU.

MY HUSBAND WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING FROM ANY INHUMAN, YOU HAVE BUT TO ASK.

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO TURN BACK INTO DEATHLOK SINCE I RETURNED TO EARTH. I GUESS THE STRANGER THOUGHT HE WAS PUNISHING ME.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE FINALLY BACK WITH YOUR FAMILY.

ME TOO. IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR THAT GREG WON'T EVER HAVE THAT CHANCE. I KNOW IT'S A CLICHÉ BUT DAMMIT, HIS DEATH IS SUCH A ***WASTE.***

GARGAN'S HERE. HIDING BEHIND THOSE TREES OVER THERE.

I KNOW, JANET. LET ME HANDLE IT.

YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYBODY, VENOM. WE ALL KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

I FIGURED. I JUST CAME TO PAY MY RESPECTS. HE SAVED ***MY*** LIFE, TOO.

YOU'RE A PIECE OF CRAP, GARGAN.

I'M A ***GRIEVING*** PIECE OF CRAP.

I AM THE WATCHER.

FOR LONGER THAN THIS GALAXY'S EXISTENCE, I AND OTHERS OF MY RACE HAVE BEEN WITNESS TO THE MYRIAD WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE.

I HAVE SEEN GREAT VICTORY AND GREAT LOSS, OFTEN AT THE SAME MOMENT.

I HAVE BORNE WITNESS TO BOTH THE BIRTH OF HOPE AND THE SENSELESS DEATH OF PROMISE.

I UNDERSTAND. DEATHLOK AND THE STRANGER WERE MISTAKEN. I DID NOT COME TO BATTLEWORLD TO RECORD THE STRANGER'S DEFEAT, THOUGH IT SUITED ME TO ALLOW HIM TO THINK SO.

I WAS THERE TO WITNESS THE DEATH OF A GREAT HERO, A BEING OF PROFOUND DESTINY WHOSE INFLUENCE WAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

GREG WILLIS
"GRAVITY"
19?8-2006
...SON, FRIEND, HERO.
"HE WAS ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS."

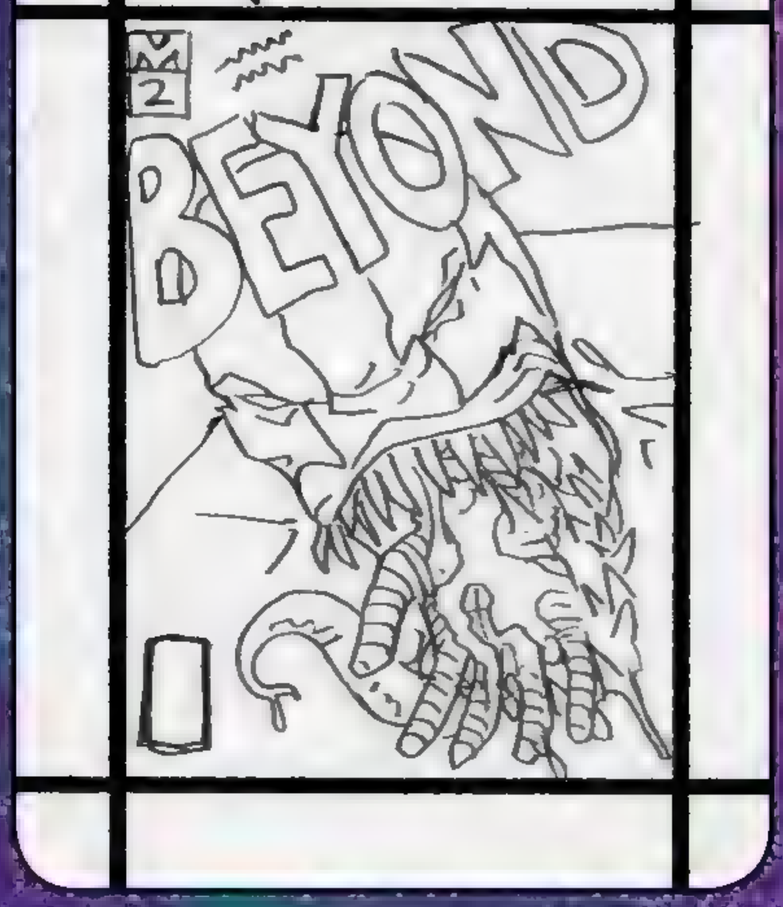
HIS DEATH AS THE WORLD WILL SOON DISCOVER IS FAR FROM THE END OF HIS STORY.

END

Cover sketches by Scott Kolins

#1

#2



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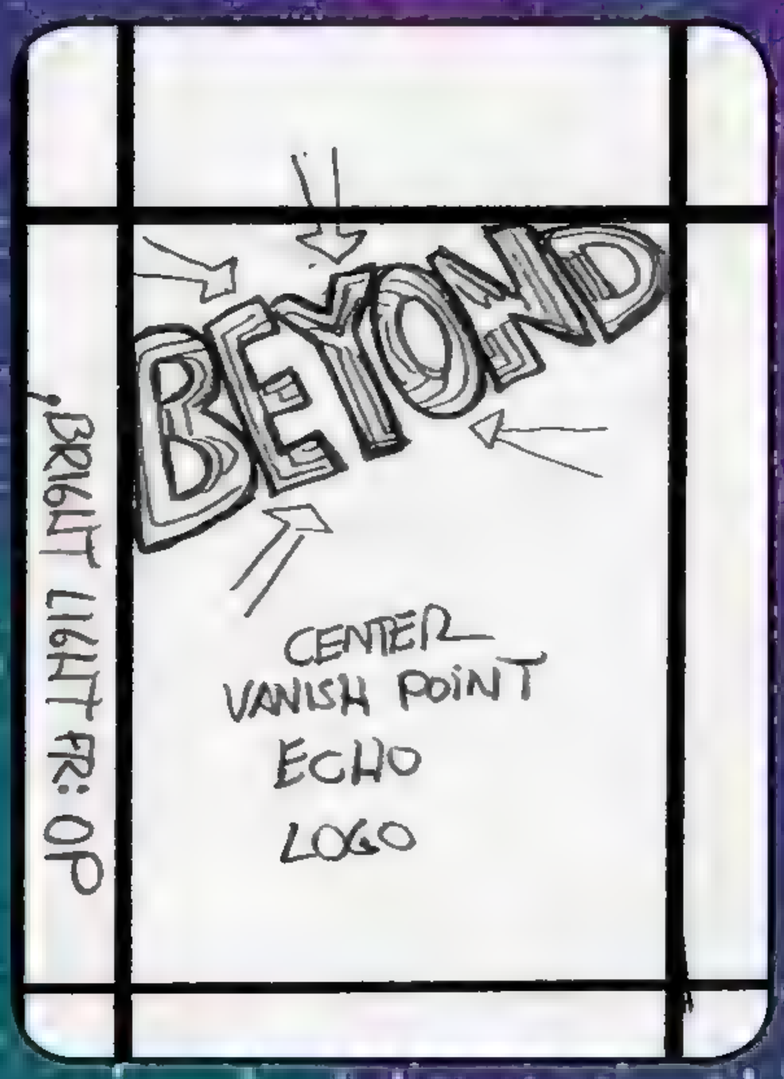

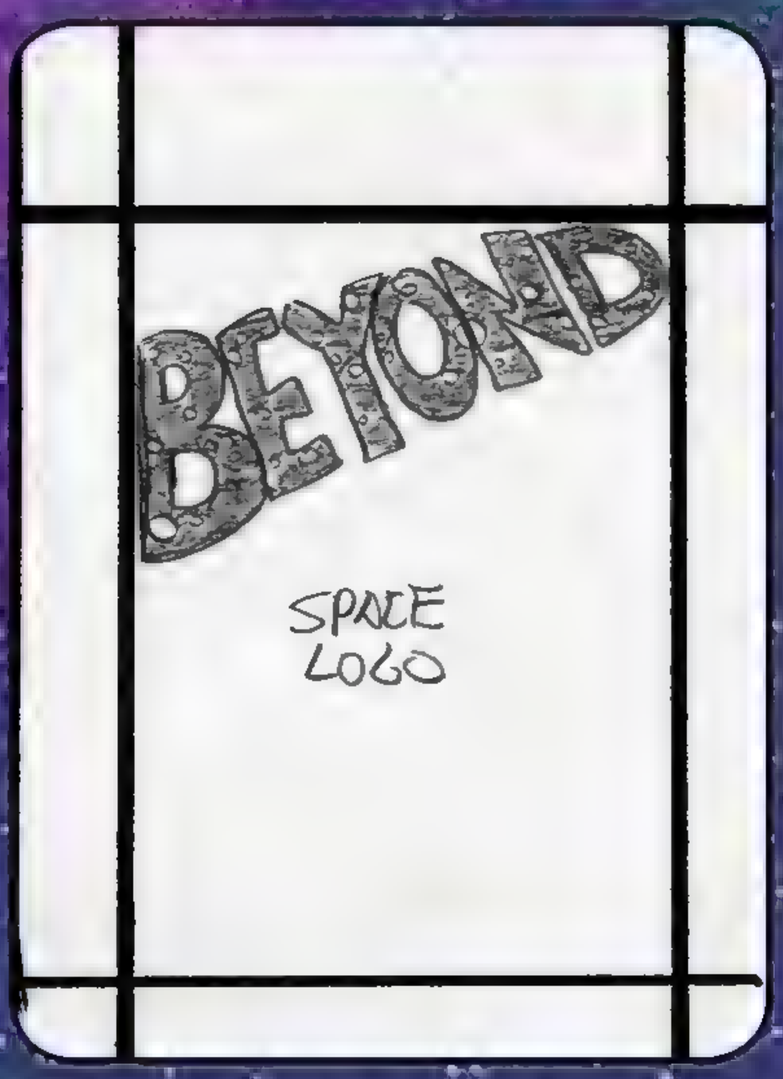

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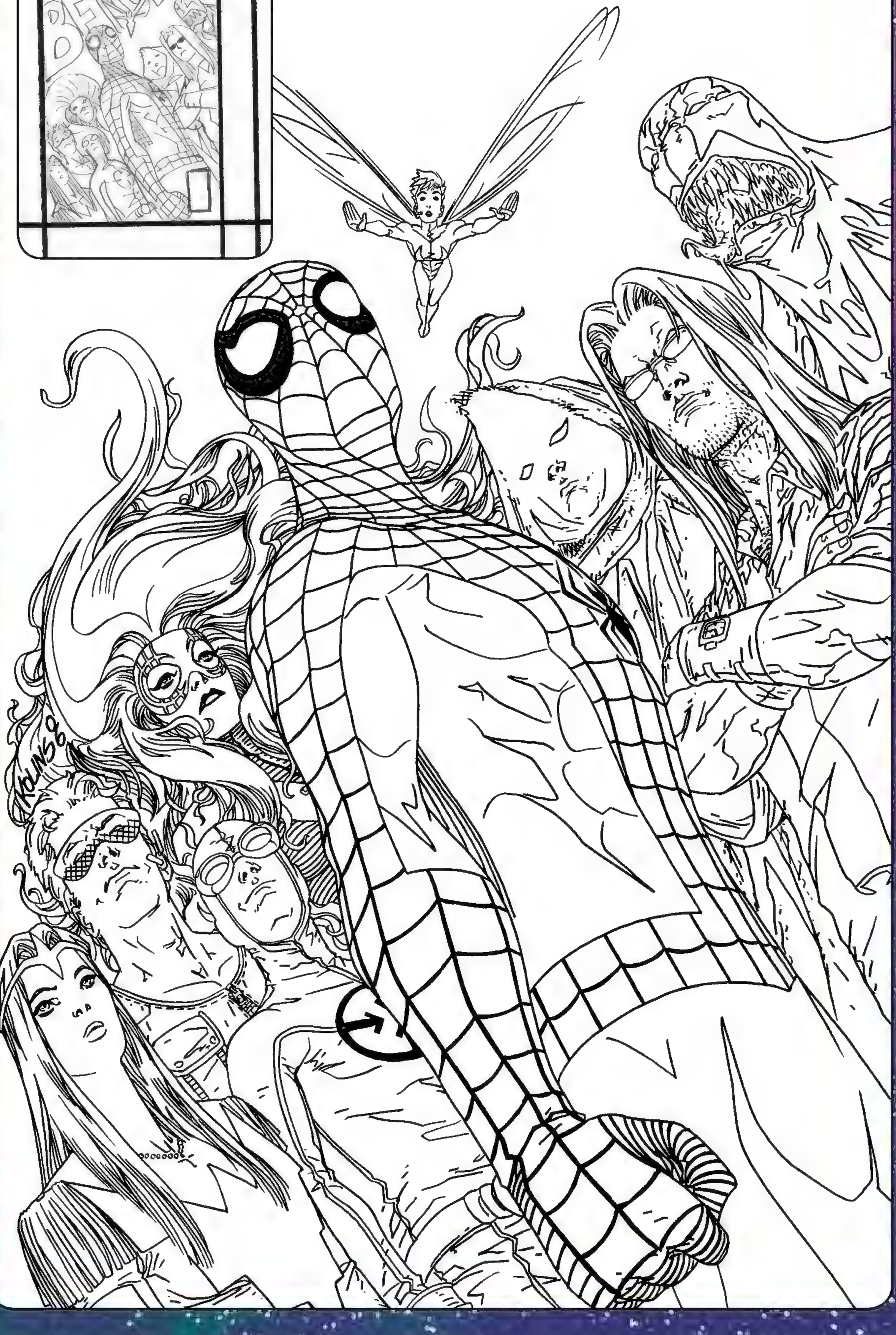
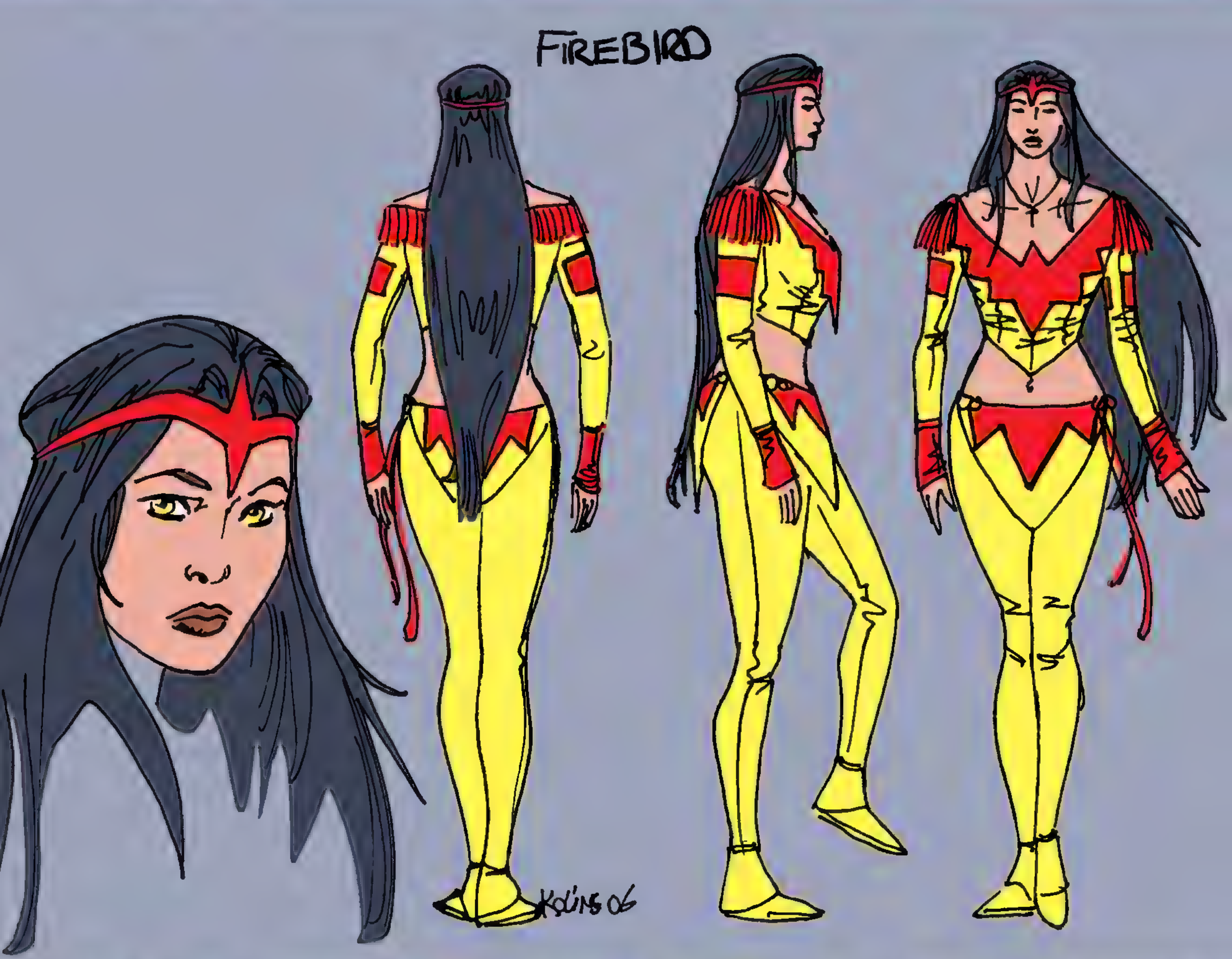


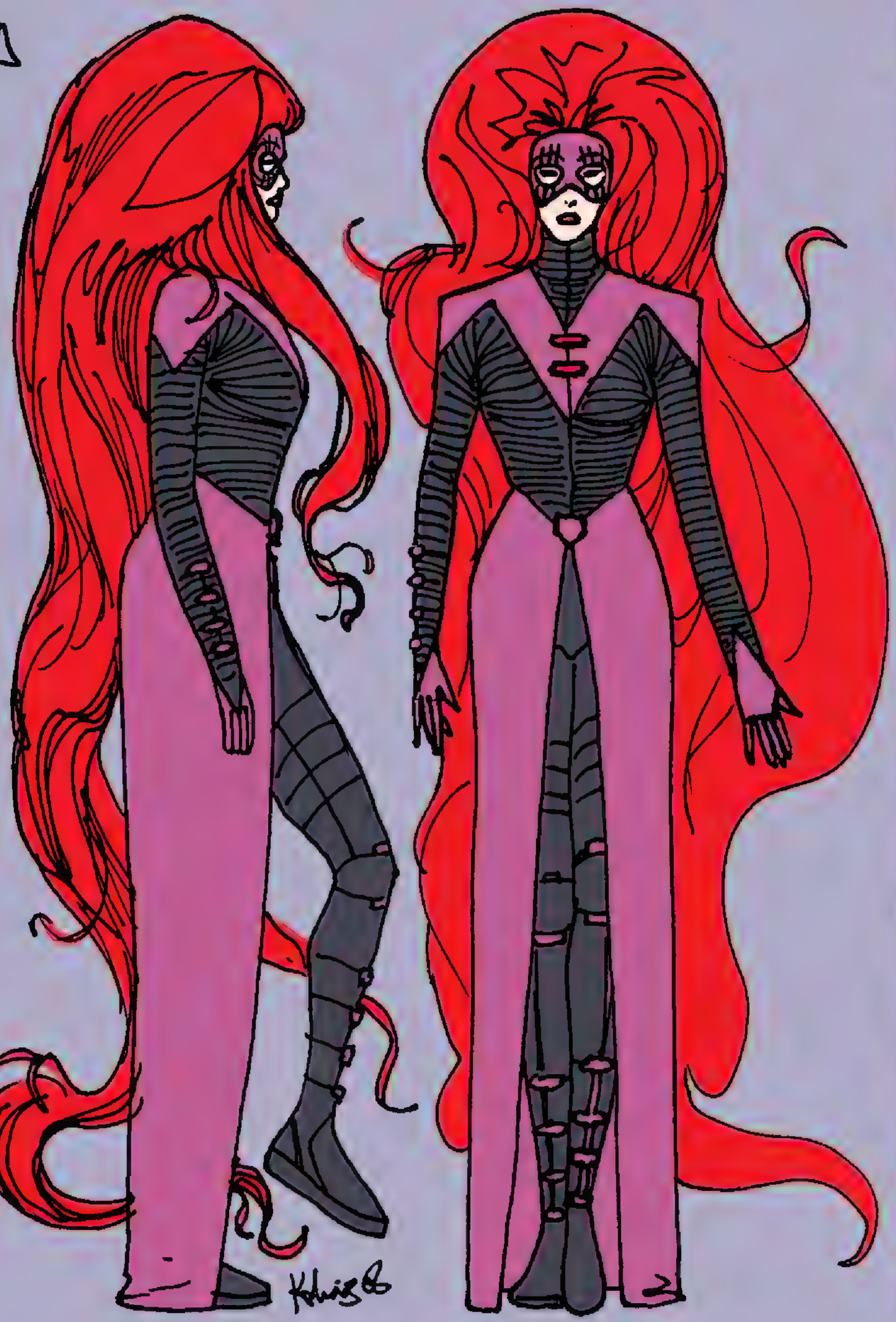
KALINS 06

Character Designs by Scott Kolins

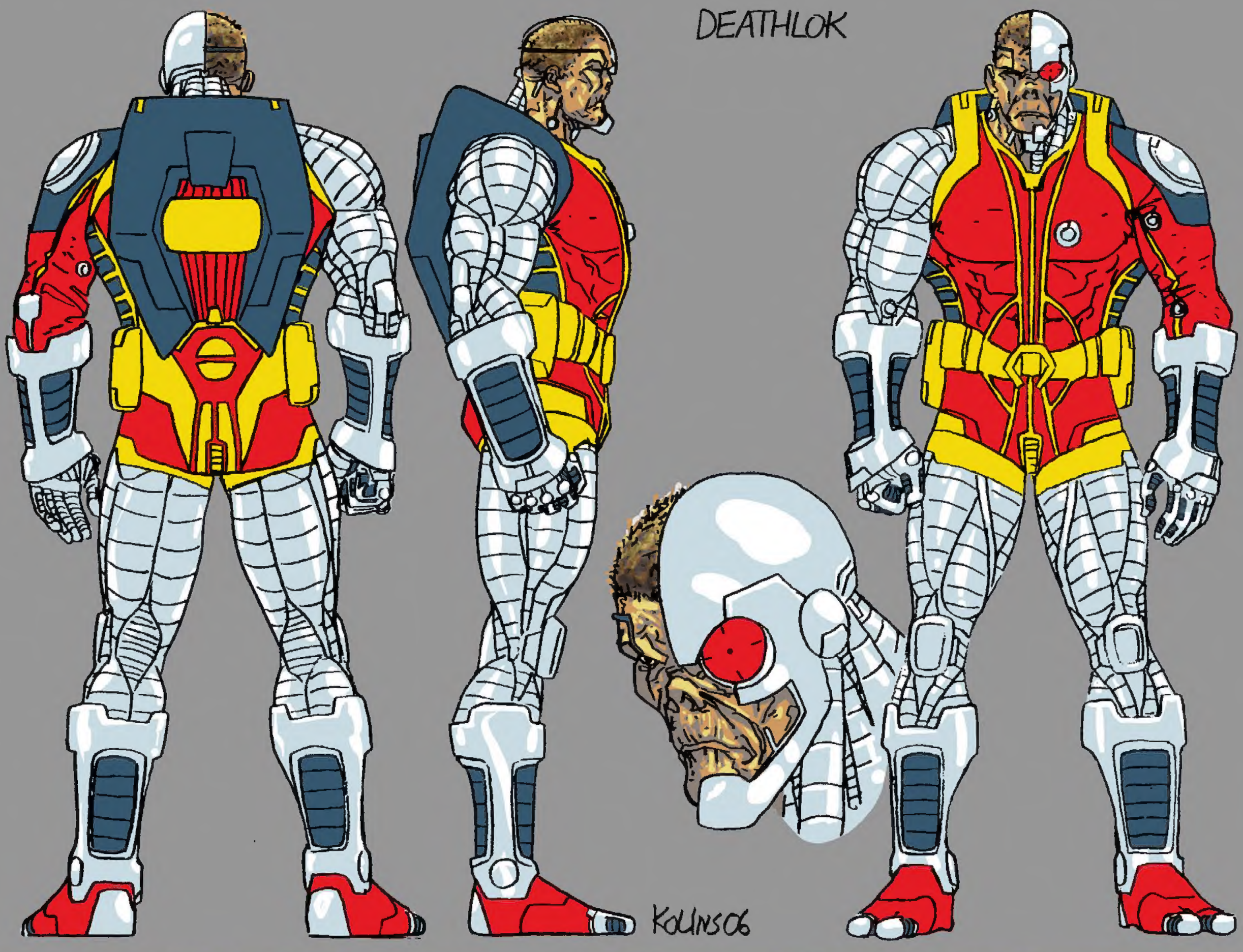
FIREBIRD



MEDUSA

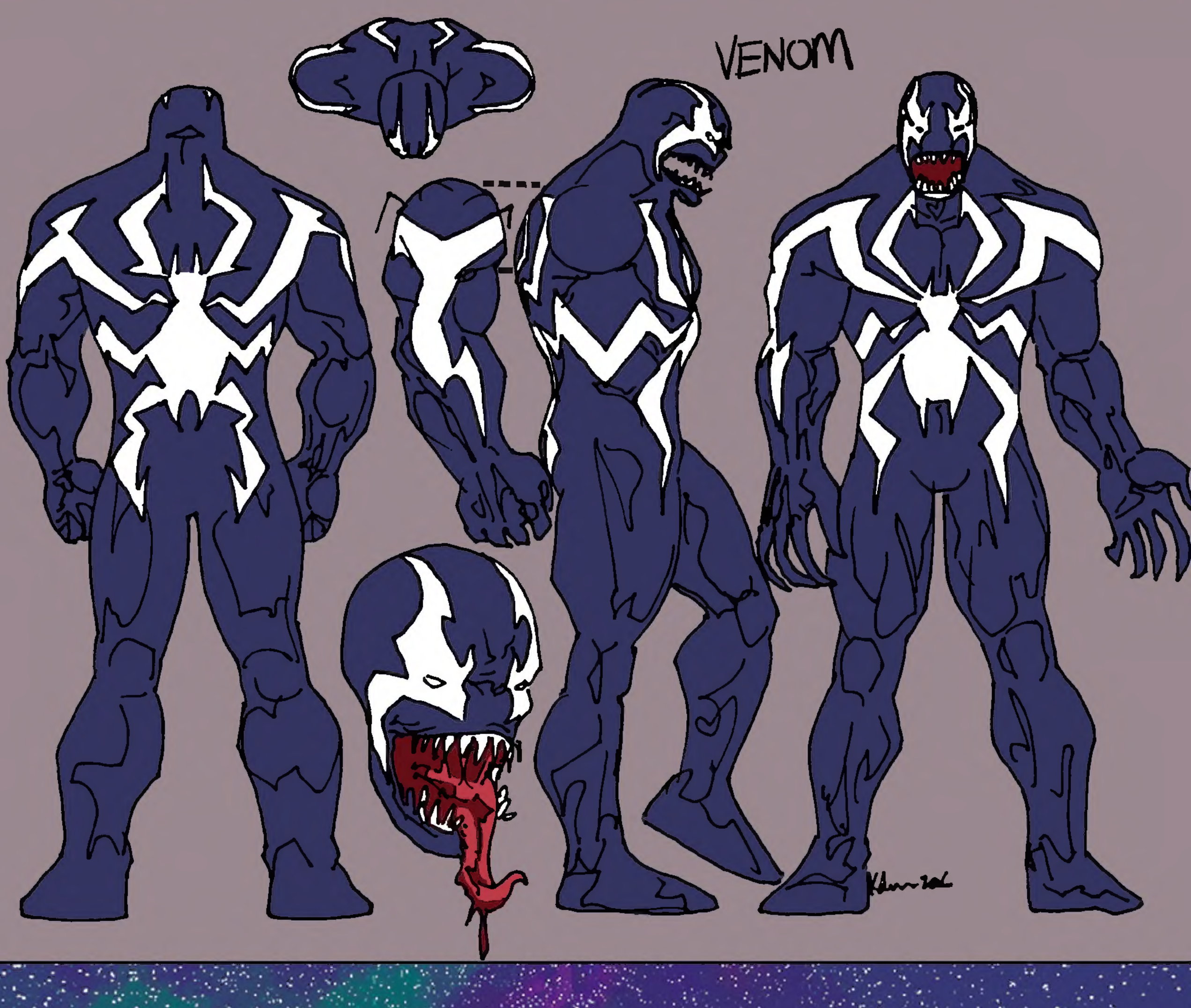


DEATHLOK



KOLINS06

Venom character studies by Scott Kolins



SECRET WARS, TOO!?

An indescribably powerful cosmic being gathers nine of Marvel's most mismatched super-beings for purposes beyond their comprehension. Can Spider-Man, Gravity, Venom, Henry Pym, the Wasp, Medusa, Kraven, Firebird and the Hood keep from killing each other before they must face the dangers of their destination, the deadly artificial planet known as Battleworld?

2007
Washington Post
"A List" Selection

MARVEL A

Collecting *Beyond! #1-6*, written by DWAYNE MCDUFFIE (*Justice League Unlimited*) and illustrated by SCOTT KOLINS (*Avengers: Earth's Mightiest Heroes*).